

Landmarks Preservation Commission
October 29, 1968, Number 2
LP-0057

193 FRONT STREET BUILDING, Borough of Manhattan. 1877 facade on earlier building, architects unknown.

Landmark Site: Borough of Manhattan Tax Map Block 74, Lot 13.

On October 19, 1965, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation as a Landmark of the 193 Front Street Building and the proposed designation of the related Landmark Site. (Item No. 29). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law.

DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

This handsome five-story building, with remodeled front, has a first floor store front with cast iron columns and lintel supporting the brick wall above. The front of this building replaced the original and was erected in the Neo-Grec style in the eighteen-seventies. The incised carving of the stone window lintels and the vertical grooved band courses which extend the width of the building at impost block level, beneath the lintels, are good examples of the work of this period. The top floor has a large two-tiered window crowned by a cornice with arched pediment at the center.

Nos. 191 and 193 were originally built as one store but have both been remodeled since they were built and appear quite different today.

We do not have the construction date of these buildings with double store, but we know that it was prior to 1793, for in that year it was assessed at \$2,250 and leased to Garrett Westful, a merchant who was there in 1794 and 1795. The property was sold to Minturn and Champlin, leading merchants, who occupied these buildings intermittently from 1804 to 1816. In 1804 this firm had commissioned the first ship, "The North America", of the famous early ship builder, Christian Bergh.

By the date of the Whitefield Print, "View of Brooklyn, L. I. taken from The United States Hotel, New York", c. 1847, 193 Front Street had already been raised to five stories with a huge, nearly two-story tall top floor. This building was increased in height, and the front refaced in 1877 for Thomas M. Moore by Rogers and Brown at an estimated cost of \$3,000.

FINDINGS AND DESIGNATIONS

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture and other features of this building, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the 193 Front Street Building has a special character, special historical and aesthetic interest and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of New York City.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, the 193 Front Street Building is an interesting example of a warehouse with an unusually high top floor and that as seen today, it has been altered in the Neo-Grec style with a handsome cast iron store front at street level.

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 63 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 8-A of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Landmark the 193 Front Street Building, Borough of Manhattan and designates Tax Map Block 74, Lot 13, Borough of Manhattan, as its Landmark Site.